

la Région

JUSTICE, INTERGÉNÉRATIONNELLE, RELATIONS NORD-SUD, DÉVELOPPEMENT, DETTE, DÉCHETS, RESSOURCES, ÉGALITÉS, ENVIRONNEMENT, EXPLOITATION, DOMMAGES ÉCOLOGIQUES, CONTRAT BIENS PUBLICS MONDIAUX, MONÉTARISATION

COLLOQUE
INTERNATIONAL
7 NOV. 2011

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
D'ÎLE-DE-FRANCE
57, RUE BABYLONE
75007 PARIS

dette ÉCOLOGIQUE ?



Chaire
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Emergence of the Ecological Debt Concept

....to achieve environmental and social justice

**ANPED –
Northern Alliance for Sustainability**

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- In accumulating economic wealth, countries cause ecological damage elsewhere
- In accumulating economic wealth, countries use ecosystem services, limiting the possible use by others

What is environmental justice ?

- The principle of Environmental Justice affirms that all people are entitled to a healthy environment and must share the planet's natural resource on a fair and sustainable way.
- Unavoidable environmental risks and degradation must not be distributed disproportionately among sectors of a particular society and through the different societies and regions that are part of the human family.
- Environmental justice refers to the fact that nobody should be deprived of the natural resources and the clean environment necessary for human life. This is existential justice, a matter of dignity, a human right.

Some history

- Rio de Janeiro 1992 – case Chile
- Campaign in South – Jubilee Sur
- Who owns whom ? Friends of the Earth
- JADES – international working group
- Study work in Belgium
- Case Umicore (MNO)
- UN-language ? Legal language?

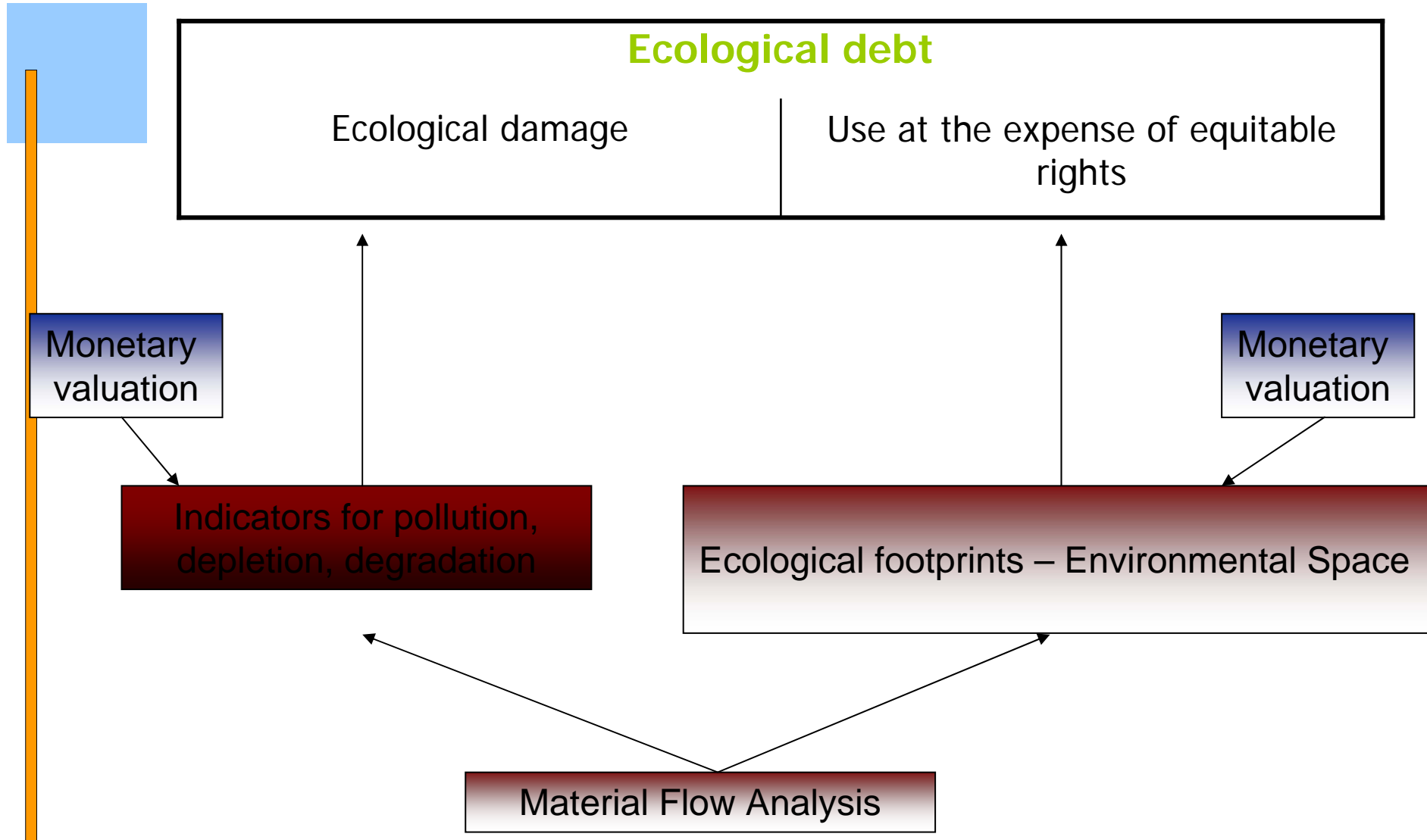
The ecological debt of country A consists of:

The ecological damage caused over time by country A in other countries or in an area under jurisdiction of another country through its production and consumption patterns, and/or

The ecological damage caused over time by country A to ecosystems beyond national jurisdiction through its consumption and production patterns; and/or

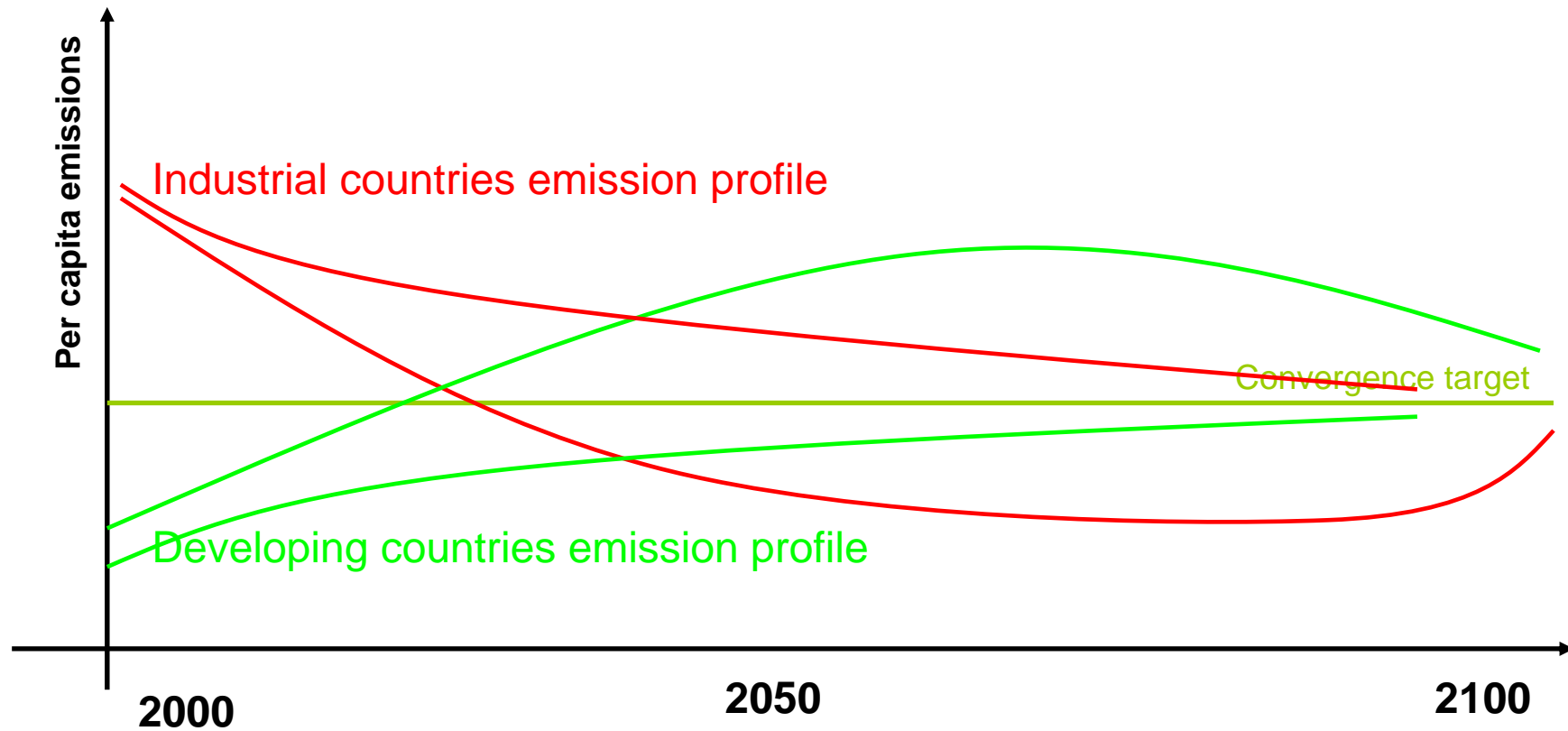
The exploitation or use of ecosystems and ecosystem goods and services over time by country A, at the expense of the equitable rights to these ecosystems and ecosystem goods and services by other countries or individuals

Calculating ecological debt



Political implications : climate

Commitment period after Kyoto: contraction,
convergence AND compensation



Political implications

Necessary steps:

- Discussion on status of external debt: repayments made, legitimacy,...
- Use of ecological debt as reference material for argument for debt cancellation
- Extra argument for questioning the growth model



onal

Belgium

am: 16 billic

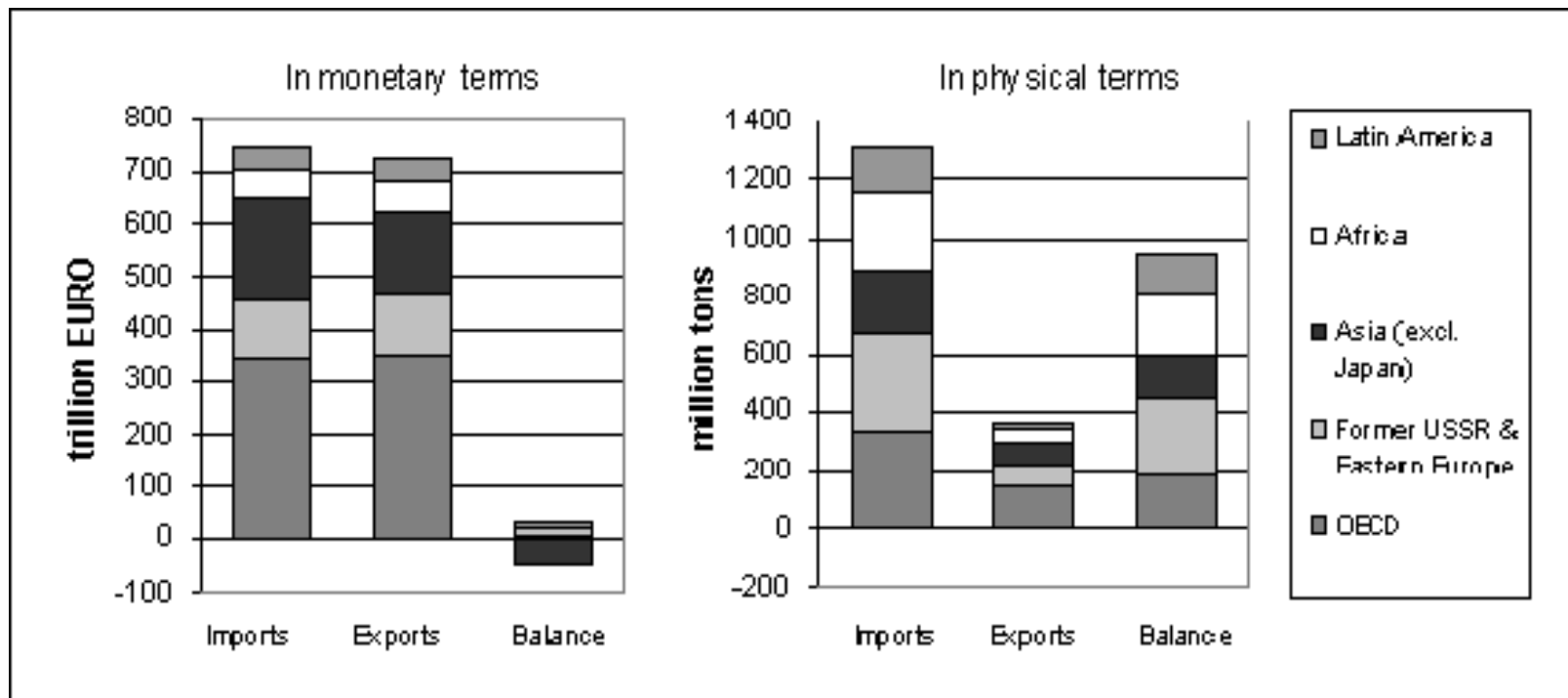
ntries:

Relate ODA to ecological debt, instead of GDP!

(research CDO): 42-57 billion Euro

Underlying mechanism of ecological debt: **ecologically unequal exchange** puts into question the assumed positive link between free trade and sustainable development

Monetary and physical balance of trade EU-15, 1999



New way of looking

- A different *political perspective*: countries can be in a creditor-debtor relationship on the basis of physical-ecological relations. Through the concept of ecological debt industrialised and developing countries stand in another relationship: the North as debtor, the South as creditor. Southern movements sometimes formulate this as 'empowerment' of the South and Southern peoples in international relations.
- A different *economic perspective*, especially in the field of trade: ecological debt shows that trade has often not been mutually beneficial, neither in monetary terms, nor in ecological terms. This points to the need for different analyses and perspectives on trade, which are not to be found in neo-classical trade theories, nor in current trade policies.

and

- A different *ethical perspective*: ecological debt points at the collective responsibility of industrialised countries for past violations of the right to a clean and safe environment in other countries, especially in the South
- A different *ecological perspective*: ecological debt is another way of revealing the impossibility of continuing our lifestyle and the impossibility of copying this lifestyle in the South.
- A different *legal perspective*: ecological damage and (unequal) appropriation of global goods has to be recognised, and it must be possible to bring a charge against the offenders. This can be a country or a MNO.

So

**Recognising Ecological Debt will cause a
new perspective on social and
economic analyses and practices in
the World.**



Thanks !

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